Commercial Law Development Program

Improving the Legal Environment for Business Worldwide

Mohamed Badissy, Senior Attorney

Commercial Law Development Program
Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Department of Commerce
http://cldp.doc.gov
About CLDP

• Established in 1992, CLDP is the legal technical assistance instrument of the U.S. Department of Commerce

• CLDP’s mission – improve the legal environment for business worldwide

• Government-to-government technical assistance to modernize commercial legal environments and support economic development

• Developing & post-conflict countries to implement commercial legal reforms that support U.S. foreign policy goals

• CLDP team has expertise in international business, commercial laws, trade relations, and development assistance

Peter Davidson, General Counsel, U.S. Department of Commerce, launches CLDP’s new Power Africa handbook, Understanding Power Project Procurement, before a crowd of US companies and other private sector partners
CLDP Partners

- U.S. Embassies
- Foreign government officials, legislators, and judges
- International Organizations
- U.S. Private Sector
- USG Interagency

Senior leadership from the Afghanistan Customs Department met in New Delhi, India with CLDP, the World Customs Organization, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, Ethics Law and Programs Division, to draft a Customs Integrity Action Plan in April 2018.
CLDP areas of expertise

CLDP operates on an invitational basis to identify and address problematic points in a host country’s commercial law framework, whether such deficiencies are substantive or procedural, human or institutional:

• Commerce
• Customs
• Intellectual Property Rights
• Energy
• Standards
• Telecommunications
• Trade Agreements
• Transparency & Governance

Types of CLDP work

Examples of targeted CLDP technical assistance:

- Implementation of WTO, multilateral, and bilateral trade agreements
- Legislative and regulatory reforms
- Public procurement best practices
- Judicial capacity building
- Strengthening IPR protections
- Streamlining trade facilitation and customs modernization reforms
- Encouraging regional economic integration
CLDP Success

CLDP success is measured by:

- Ease of Doing Business
- Economic Development
- Political Stability
- Increased Trade for U.S. Products
- Franchising of More US Brands

Inauguration of the First Johnny Rockets Restaurant in Tunisia in 2015
Kosovo

Kosovo improved its overall DBI rank from 126 to 44 from 2012 to 2019, with significant reforms in making trading across borders easier

- CLDP Kosovo programming has focused intently on customs reform for this strategic US ally
Morocco

Morocco, which placed 60 in the 2019 DBI, registered its greatest improvement in **resolving insolvency** by jumping 63 places from 2018

- CLDP recent insolvency law programming in Morocco was praised by DOS for improving the ease of resolving insolvency in Morocco
Why is CLDP important?

- In the past two decades, developing and transitional countries worldwide have displayed a greater commitment to achieving economic growth through liberalization.
- This has created an opportunity for the United States to build stronger bilateral relationships, while increasing economic opportunity for itself and its partners.
- Many developing countries look to the United States as the world’s leading economy for assistance to improve their laws and regulations.
- CLDP has filled a need by working with governments to create effective and reliable political, commercial, and legal institutions that are critical to fostering attractive environments where businesses can find opportunity.
Where CLDP works

Annually, CLDP works in over 40 countries worldwide:

• South Asia
• Eastern Europe and Central Asia
• Middle East and North Africa
• Latin America and the Caribbean
• Africa
• Energy (worldwide)
• Southeast Asia
Contact information

Mohamed Badissy, Senior Attorney
mbadissy@doc.gov
(202) 482-2204

Kenyon Weaver, Attorney-Advisor
kweaver@doc.gov
(202) 482-2204

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